

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Little Snake Field Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, CO 81625-1129**

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2015-0026-CX

CASEFILE/ALLOTMENT NUMBER: 0501111/04549

PROJECT NAME: Timberlake Allotment (#04549) Fence Removal Project

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: See allotment map, attachment 1.

Timberlake Allotment (#04549)                      T.10 N., R.92 W., sections 25-27, 34-35

APPLICANTS: Keith Pankey of Pankey Ranches LLC in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP)

Date Approved: October, 2011

Decision Language: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Little Snake RMP because it is specifically provided for in the following RMP decisions:

The Proposed Action implements the RMP Livestock Grazing Management objective on page RMP-41 to manage resources, vegetation, and watersheds to sustain a variety of uses, including livestock grazing, and to maintain the long-term health of the rangelands; provide for efficient management of livestock grazing allotments; and contribute to the stability and sustainability of the livestock industry.

PROPOSED ACTION: Removal of approximately 6.5 miles of old non-functioning fence located on public and private lands within the Timberlake Allotment (#04549). Most of this fence is in non-functioning condition with missing posts and wire on the ground. The base property is owned by Pankey Ranches LLC. Removal of these fences will enhance livestock management in the East and Middle Pastures of the allotment. These structures pose a risk to wildlife in the area and are no longer needed to facilitate livestock operations. Two of these fence lines have been documented in the Range Improvement Project System (RIPS), the Sherman Fence (#200737) and the Timberlake Sec 4 Fence (#203658). As part of this project, these fences would be abandoned upon removal. Removal will occur by utilizing existing roads

and access through the private land. T posts and wire would be hauled out by volunteers to existing roads. Old wooden fence posts would be broken off or sawed off at ground level to decrease predator perches and to avoid impalement risks or injury to livestock and wildlife.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW: The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, J(10), as amended. None of the following extraordinary circumstances in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse effects on public health and safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Have the potential for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Title	Resource	Date
Archaeologist	Cultural Resources	4/21/2015
Rangeland Mgmt Spec	T&E Plants	4/14/2015
Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animals	4/15/2015

NAME OF PREPARER: Aimee R. Huff

SIGNATURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: *Kathy McKinstry*

DATE: *4/23/15*

This action is listed in the Department Manual (516 DM 2, Appendix 1 and/or 516 DM 11, as amended) as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: *Wendy Reynolds*  
Wendy Reynolds, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: *4/28/15*

